

Message Text

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66/16

ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-04 INT-05 COME-00 DLOS-03 L-01

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P 170905Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5324

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - MRN: 13535 VICE 13505

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS OCON JA

SUBJ: US-JAPAN BILATERAL FISHERIES TALKS

REF: STATE 226390

1. EMBASSY HAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED LATEST US PROPOSAL TO BEGIN FISHERIES TALKS IN TOKYO NOV 12 (REFTEL).

2. IV VIEW OF EXTRAORDINARY REQUIREMENTS WHICH WILL BE PLACED ON EMBASSY STAFF AND FACILITIES BY PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT, EMBASSY WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY LOGISTIC OR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR MEETINGS IN TOKYO DURING WEEKS OF NOV 11 OR NOV 18. IN ADDITION, FISHERY AGENCY AND ESPECIALLY FOREIGN OFFICE STAFF AND FACILITIES WILL BE HEAVILY TAXED WITH SUBSTANTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT DURING THAT PERIOD. THUS WE SEE NO POSSIBILITY GOJ WOULD BE WILLING TAKE ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOSTING ANY TALKS IN TOKYO UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENTIAL VISIT.

3. SINCE IT IS CLEARLY IN OUR INTEREST TO PREVENT SCHEDULE OF TALKS FROM SLIPPING INTO 1975, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE PROPOSE TO GOJ THAT TECHNICAL AND WORKING GROUPS MEET AT FAR SEAS FISHERIES LABORATORY AT SHIMIZU/SHIZUOKA DURING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18 AND THAT FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS

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BEGIN IN TOKYO NOV 25 TO BE CONCLUDED BY DEC 6.

4. IN THIS WAY FISHERY AGENCY PERSONNEL WHO, UNLIKE FONOFF COUNTERPARTS, NOT INVOLVED IN THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT COULD INITIATE TALKS AND TAKE CARE OF NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE/ LOGISTIC REQUIREMENTS (WHICH WOULDNOT BE POSSIBLE IN TOKYO AT THAT TIME), AND POLICY OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES COULD BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN TOKYO NOV 25, I.E. AFTER DEPARTURE OF THE PRESIDENT. EMBASSY'S ROLE PRIOR TO NOV 25 WOULD BE LIMITED TO ARRANGING TRANSFER OF USDEL FROM HANEDA AIRPORT TO SHIMIZU/SHIZUOKA. FURTHER REASON FOR DELAYING BEGINNING OF TECHNICAL AND WORKING GROUPS UNTIL NOV 18 IS TO AVOID POSSIBILITY THAT ELABORATION OF US POSITION BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WOULD RESULT IN ESCALATION OF FISHERIES ISSUES BY JAPANESE SIDE TO PRIME MINISTER/PRESIDENT LEVEL, WHICH WOULD RUN DIRECTLY COUNTER TO PURPOSE OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT.

5. EMBASSY WILL AWAIT REPLY BEFORE DISCUSSING WITH FONOFF OR FISHERY AGENCY.
HODGSON

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